

# Amphibia, Anura, Leptodactylidae, *Leptodactylus syphax* Bokermann, 1969: Distribution extension and geographic distribution map

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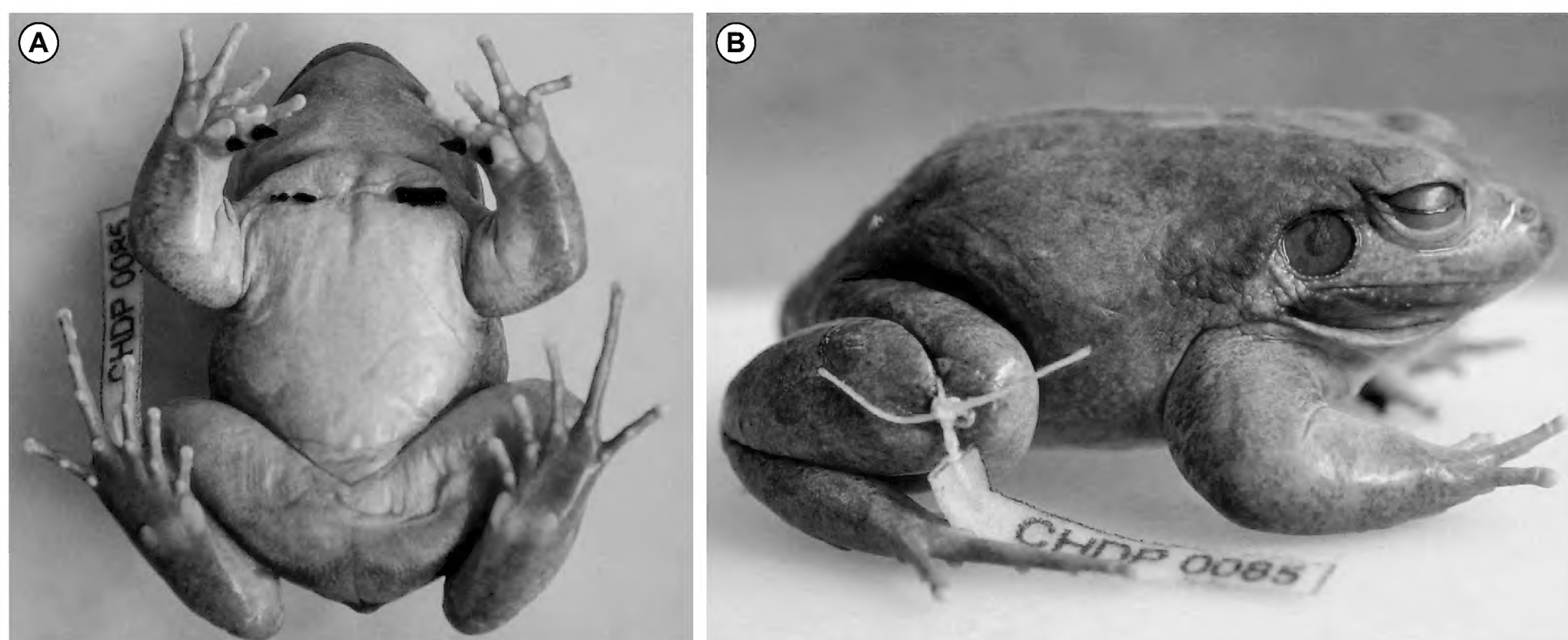
**ABSTRACT:** *Leptodactylus syphax* is a mid-sized frog that inhabits open rocky areas in central, southeastern and northeastern Brazil, besides southern Paraguay and eastern Bolivia. Here we reported an adult male from Parque Municipal Cachoeira do Bota Fora, Piripiri municipality, state of Piauí, northeastern Brazil, expanding the known distribution of *Leptodactylus syphax* ca. 320 km northwards.

The Neotropical genus *Leptodactylus* Fitzinger, 1826 includes 88 species, widely distributed in South America (Frost 2010). The genus is divided in five species groups: *L. melanonotus*, *L. latrans*, *L. fuscus*, *L. marmoratus*, and *L. pentadactylus* (Heyer 1969; Frost 2010). The *L. pentadactylus* group comprises formally 19 species (Frost 2010), including *Leptodactylus syphax* Bokermann, 1969, described from Cuiabá municipality, state of Mato Grosso, central Brazil. This species is a mid-sized frog (males ranging from 58–83 mm and females 70–90 mm SVL) that inhabits open areas associated to rocky outcrop in central, southeastern and northeastern Brazil, besides southern Paraguay and eastern Bolivia, between elevations of 175 m to 1500 m (Heyer *et al.* 2010).

During fieldwork at Parque Municipal Cachoeira do Bota Fora (04°12'00" S, 41°39'60" W), located at

Piripiri municipality, north region of state of Piauí, on 12 December 2007, an individual of *L. syphax* was recorded. The Parque Municipal Cachoeira do Bota Fora is covered by dense forest habitat, and correspond to a transition region between Cerrado, Caatinga and Tropical Rainforest (Barroso and Guimarães 1980; Oliveira and Martins 2007). Several lentic water bodies are formed during the rainy season, and are used for reproduction of several amphibian species.

The adult male of *L. syphax* (SVL = 73.3 mm) was collected vocalizing at rocky shores of a small stream. The individual had hypertrophied arms, chest and thumb spines (Figure 1). These characteristics are typical of sexually active male of *L. pentadactylus* species group (Heyer 2005). Previous records of the species at state of Piauí were made in the cities of São Raimundo Nonato

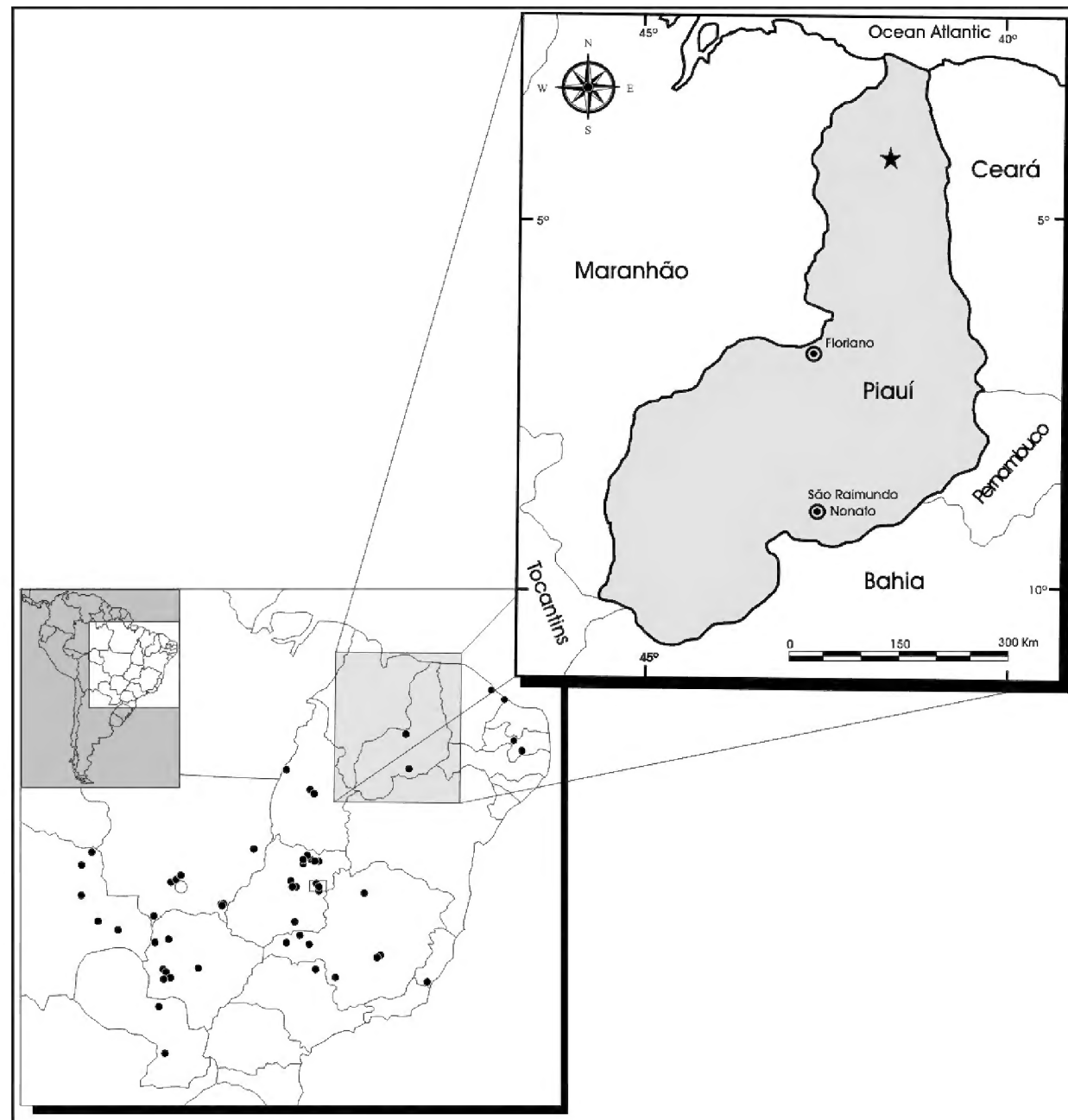


**FIGURE 1.** *Leptodactylus syphax* from Parque Municipal Cachoeira do Bota Fora, Piripiri municipality, state of Piauí, northeastern Brazil. A – Ventral view showing the chest and thumb spines. B – Lateral view showing hypertrophied arms. SVL = 73.3 mm.

(Cardoso and Heyer 1995) and Floriano (Lima and Cruz, unpublished data). These records were done in south and center regions of state of Piauí, in habitats similar to found in Parque Municipal Cachoeira do Bota Fora (Figure 2). This new record extends the geographic distribution of *L. syphax* ca. 320 km northeastern straight-line from the previous records at from Floriano municipality, in the state of Piauí. The specimen collected was deposited at Coleção Herpetológica Delta do Parnaíba – CHDP, Universidade Federal do Piauí – CMRV/UFPI, Parnaíba

- Piauí, under number CHDP 0085 (License 17727-1/09 IBAMA/RAM).

The knowledge about amphibian fauna of northern Piauí still remains scarce, although information about this subject have become available in recent years (e.g. Annunziata et al. 2007; Silva et al. 2007; Loebmann and Mai 2008; Leite Jr. et al. 2008; Loebmann et al. 2010, Benício et al. 2011). These records demonstrate the great need of inventories to better characterize the amphibian fauna of the state of Piauí.



**FIGURE 2.** Geographic distribution of *Leptodactylus syphax*. White circle indicate the type-locality (Cuiabá, Mato Grosso) and black point represent actual distributions (see Heyer et al. 2010). Black star represent the new record for the species, municipality of Piripiri, state of Piauí.

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